

Classification followed in this Work' (pp. 26-29); 'Remarks on Systematic Nomenclature' (pp. 30-42). Then comes the main body of the work, entitled 'An Exposition of a Method of a Classification of Birds' (pp. 43-252). Three pages then follow devoted to observations on certain genera of doubtful position in the system, and a page of corrections and additions. An 'Index to the Generic Names' mentioned in the work occupies pages 260-286; they number about 2400, of which 900 are considered as superfluous and 300 as synonyms. A list of 'Generic Names added or altered in this Work' follows. All this is followed by an 'Appendix' (pp. 291-305) devoted to 'Ornithographic Terms; or the names of the external parts of Birds,' illustrated with a plate. The translator has added various foot notes, 'giving references to recent publications, in the hope that they may assist the student'; he has also added two appendices, the first giving a summary of Sundevall's system (by Mr. R. B. Sharpe, from the 'Zoölogical Record' for 1872), the second giving the outlines of Sundevall's later arrangement of the Accipitres and the Thrushes, both published in 1874, almost Sundevall's last work, his death occurring the following year.

The work thus contains much that the student of today may consult with profit, aside from the historic interest of the essay as one of the leading attempts at a natural classification of birds.

In the 'Remarks on Classification' are many passages of special interest, particularly his discussion of "the time from which the use of binomial nomenclature in Zoölogy ought to date." He says: "Generally the year 1766 is taken, being the date of publication of the twelfth edition of the 'Systema Naturæ,' which is also the one best known. . . . This is nevertheless an entirely false notion. This nomenclature is brought forward as a principle, and followed out through the whole Animal Kingdom, in the *tenth* edition of the same work, that published in 1758, and it really dates from that time. This observation is the more important, because in this edition many species are a great deal better characterized than in the twelfth, where incorrect synonymy and other mistakes are often introduced, and where some species are entirely omitted. . . ." This in reference to specific names. Generic names in Zoölogy commence "with the first edition of Linnæus's 'Systema Naturæ,' published in 1735, this being the first work where genera form an essential part of a system of Zoölogy," etc.

As already said, we believe Mr. Nicholson has done good work in making Sundevall's important essay readily accessible to a large class of students who would be unable to make use of the original edition. The work is admirable in typographical execution.—J. A. A.

Goss's 'History of the Birds of Kansas.'*—As a handbook or manual of the birds of a definite area, Colonel Goss's 'History of the Birds of Kan-

* History of the Birds of Kansas | — | By N. S. Goss. | — | Illustrating 529 Birds. | — | Topeka, Kansas; | Geo. W. Crane & Co., Printers and Binders. | 1891. —Royal 8vo. pp. 692 + 1 l., and 35 photogravure full-page plates.

'sas' might in many ways serve as a model to future writers of similar works. As its title indicates, the work is strictly limited to the birds known to occur within the State of Kansas, which now number 343 species and subspecies. The technical descriptions are borrowed, "chiefly from 'North American Land and Water Birds,' by Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway," for which due credit is given. No synonymy or bibliographical references are included, further than is implied in the concordance, in which, in addition to that given in the A. O. U. Check-List is included a reference to the author's own 'Revised Catalogue' of Kansas birds, published in 1886, and to the A. O. U. Check-List itself. Nothing further is really necessary in a work of this character, the A. O. U. Nomenclature being strictly followed.

The character of the text is hence as follows: The characters of the higher groups are given in full, from the source already indicated. The text under each species consists of the A. O. U. Check-List names (both English and Latin), followed (1) by a reference to the plate where the species is figured; (2) a summary statement of the nature of its occurrence in Kansas; (3) its concordance; (4) its habitat; (5) technical description; (6) life history, based mainly on the author's own personal experience.

Colonel Goss has been a great wanderer in pursuit of ornithological knowledge, and it is a pleasure to find his pages on Kansas birds enriched by references to his experience with many of the species mentioned in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the maritime Provinces of Canada, in Florida, Wisconsin, and Texas, on the Northwest Coast, and in various parts of Mexico and Central America. His bird biographies thus abound with fresh material, given in a most unassuming and very pleasant way. The descriptions of the nesting habits and the eggs are generally very full. His own experience, however, is supplemented in many instances by extended quotations from other authors. In general it may be said that the work adds greatly to our knowledge of many species of North American birds, and is in every way a credit to its conscientious and painstaking author.

Typographically the work is very attractive, while the plates are a novel feature, and, as an inexpensive method of illustration, may be regarded as a success, quite excelling in effectiveness any previous attempt at photo-engraving in ornithology we have seen. In fact, the plates are little less than a revelation respecting the possibilities of photogravure as an aid in ornithological illustration. The figures are all from mounted specimens in the 'Goss Ornithological Collection,' in the State Cabinet at Topeka and the work of Col. Goss himself. They are arranged in plates containing from five or six to twenty or more figures, grouped so as to be photographed all at one time, and thus all presented on practically the same scale. While the perches necessarily give a stiff and rather inartistic effect, the markings of the plumage and the general character of the birds come out with wonderful clearness and effectiveness, even in figures less than an inch in length. There are here and

there defects evidently due to haste or lack of care, as explained by the author in a note at the end of the volume. Much of the success attained is of course due to the excellent quality of the specimens as regards mounting, etc.—J. A. A.

A Forgotten Volume.—In looking through stores in New York where old books are sold, I lately came across a time-stained copy of the first volume of Audubon's 'Ornithological Biography' bearing on its title-page the following imprint:—Philadelphia: | Judah Dobson, Agent, 108 Chestnut Street; | and | H. H. Porter, Literary Rooms, 121 Chestnut Street. | MDCCCXXXII. A casual glance was sufficient to disclose that it was not the Edinburgh edition with the Philadelphia title-page (Philadelphia, E. L. Carey and A. Hart, MDCCCXXXII). Later, comparison with the Edinburgh has shown that the two are wholly distinct so far as typographical features are concerned. In the text there are slight verbal differences which tend to prove that this Philadelphia issue was printed before the one from abroad. I find no mention of this edition of volume one in the bibliographies I have access to. The attention of the Linnæan Society of New York was called to the matter and the book exhibited at a meeting in February. It has also been inspected by Mr. George N. Lawrence. To all, however, it was unknown. There is doubtless a story back of this volume, the recital of which cannot fail to be of interest to the curious bibliophile.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *Chester, S. C.*

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